

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25

DRC-01 /115 W

----- 085637

P R 111250Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3259

AMCONSUL NAHA

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

OAC CAMP SUKIRAN OKI JAPAN

RUMMOPA CG FIFTH AF FUCHU JAPAN

CG 313TH AD KADENA JAPAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: IE JIMA SHOOTING INCIDENT

SUMMARY: JCP DIET MEMBERS SENAGA AND TSUGAWA

LODGED PROTEST AT EMBASSY JULY 11 RE JULY 10 INCIDENT

ON IE JIMA IN WHICH US MILITARY

PERSONNEL REPORTEDLY FIRED AT

JAPANESE NATIONAL WITH FLARE GUN AND INFLICTED SERIOUS

INJURY. EMBASSY REQUESTS TIMELY INFORMATION ON

DEVELOPMENTS IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS JCP EFFORT TO ESCALATE

ISSUE AT NATIONAL LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

1. JCP DIET MEMBERS KAMEJIRO SENAGA (OKINAWA
PREFECTURE) AND TAKEICHI TSUGAWA CALLED AT EMBASSY JUNE
11 TO PROTEST JUNE 10 SHOOTING INCIDENT ON IEJIMA
IN OKINAWA. ACCORDING SENAGA, FOUR OR FIVE
YOUNG IEJIMA FARMERS WERE CUTTING GRASS FOR
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FORAGE OUTSIDE FIRING RANGE ON IE JIMA. AT ABOUT 6:15 PM,

JUST AFTER COMPLETION OF FIRING EXERCISES BY US FORCES, A US SOLDIER PULLED PISTOL ON AND SHOT ONE OF GRASSCUTTERS, YASUNAGA YAMASHIRO, IN THE ARM AND FLED INTO MILITARY RESERVATION. JCP SENT INVESTIGATION TEAM TO IEJIMA MORNING JULY 11, BUT DOES NOT YET KNOW IDENTITY OF US SOLDIER. SENAGA SAID JCP WISHED PRESENT FOUR DEMANDS TO USG: (1) TURN OVER US SOLDIER RESPONSIBLE TO GOJ POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION; (2) RELINQUISH COURT JURISDICTION TO GOJ; (3) APOLOGIZE AND PAY INDEMNITY TO VICTIM; AND (4) RELINQUISH IE JIMA FIRING RANGE. SENAGA SAID HE HAD JUST SEEN DEPUTY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY OMURA TO PRESS GOJ TO MAKE THESE DEMANDS ON USG. SENAGA SAID INCIDENT WAS ILLUSTRATIVE OF "COLONIALIST MENTALITY" OF US MILITARY ON OKINAWA TWO YEARS AFTER REVERSION.

2. EMBOFF (WHO HAS KNOWN SENAGA FOR SOME TWENTY YEARS) TOLD HIM THAT MATTER STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION BY JAPANESE POLICE WITH FULL COOPERATION OF US AUTHORITIES ON OKINAWA. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY INDICATES THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES NOT YET FULLY KNOWN, AN AMERICAN ON IE JIMA APPARENTLY FIRED A FLARE GUN (NOT PISTOL AS ALLEGED) AT JAPANESE NATIONAL AND INFLECTED SERIOUS ARM INJURY. EMBOFF SAID USG DEEPLY REGRETTED INCIDENT, WILL CONTINUE FULL COOPERATION WITH POLICE TO UNCOVER FACTS, WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH FONOFF ON DEVELOPMENTS, AND WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO PRECLUDE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENT OR ACCIDENT. EMBOFF SAID DETERMINATION OF PRIMARY JURISDICTION MUST AWAIT RESULT OF INVESTIGATION AND OPINION OF LEGAL EXPERTS. AS TO ALLEGATION REGARDING COLONIALIST ATTITUDE, EMBOFF STRESSED THAT EVERYONE ON US SAID AWARE THAT EXTRATERRITORIALITY IS NON-EXISTENT IN JAPAN AND THAT LEGALLY SPEAKING THERE ARE NO US BASES IN JAPAN; THERE ARE ONLY JAPANESE BASES MADE AVAILABLE TO US FORCES UNDER SECURITY TREATY FOR BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES. SENAGA SAID JCP TAKES BASIC POSITION THAT SECURITY TREATY SHOULD BE ABROGATED.

EMBOFF SAID THAT GOJ RECOGNIZES ESSENTIALITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF TREATY FOR DEFENSE OF JAPAN, AND IN ANY EVENT NEITHER PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA NOR SOVIET UNION ARE MAKING ISSUE OF SECURITY TREATY. SENAGA THEN SIMPLY ASKED FOR USG RESPONSE TO FOUR DEMANDS. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD UNDERTAKE TO TRANSMIT RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY APPRECIATES ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION BEING PROVIDED EMBASSY AND AMCONSUL NAHA

BY COMUSJAPAN AND CG 313 AD RESPECTIVELY, BUT WISHES
REITERATE IMPORTANCE OF TIMELINESS OF
INFORMATION IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS JCP EFFORT TO ESCALATE
SHOOTING INCIDENT ON NATIONAL STAGE.
CULBERT

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To: COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN
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